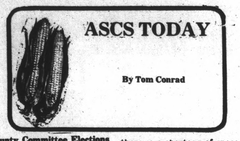

ASCS TODAY

By Tom Conrad

County Committee Elections - The County Convention was held at the ASCS office last Thursday to elect members to the County Committee and to determine the position each committeeman would hold.

Recent elected members of the Stonewall, Cloverhill and Southside Community Committees served as delegates to the Convention and as a result of their voting, Mr. W. E. Bondurant, Jr. was re-elected to serve a three year term on the Committee. Mr. W. D. Hix, III was elected first alternate for a one year term and Mr. Jack Martin was elected second alternate for a one year term. After the election of the members, the delegates voted the following positions to the three regular members: W. E. Bondurant, Jr. - Chairman, B.C. Massey - Vice Chairman, and W. D. Hunter, Jr. - Regular Member.

The Committeemen assume office on January 1, and will administer the programs governed by ASCS.

I would like to congratulate all the Committeemen on their elections and thank all those that participated in the election this year.

Grain Storage Space Totals 354,000 Bushels - A grain storage survey report issued recently by ASCS shows that Appomattox County has the capacity to store 354,000 bushels of grain -- 332,000 bushels on farm and 22,000 bushels commercially. ASCS conducted the study earlier this year to determine the amount, capacity and type of existing storage and drying equipment facilities.

The data were used to insure that there would be as little glut as possible at harvest time.

The survey was conducted in 37 grain producing States. Without the cooperation of farmers, the survey would have been impossible. I thank each of them participating in the study, and for responding in such a fine manner.

The new set of statistics will be used to relocate grains when there is a shortage of space at harvest time and will help pinpoint where reserves can be stored.

According to the report, the grain storage capacity in Virginia is 81,332,000 bushels, including 51,335,000 bushels located on farms and 29,997,000 bushels off-farm or commercially stored. The survey involved more than two million producers, nationally, and revealed that the U.S. has the capacity to store nearly 17 billion bushels of crops.

ASCS worked jointly with the Economic Statistics and Cooperatives Service (ESCS) to obtain the commercial storage information. For a copy of the report, write to: Director, Inventory Management Division, ASCS-USDA, P.O. Box, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Set-Aside Program Works - Wheat prices are well above a year ago, and the 1.8 billion bushel wheat harvest is the first crop in three years below the 2-billion bushel level. The 1978 wheat set-aside program was the principal reason. Also, strong exports, orderly marketing and the farmer-owned reserve are responsible for increased wheat prices.

Reflecting heavy participation in the set-aside and graze-out programs, 8.4 million acres were set-aside and another 1.4 million acres of wheat were enrolled in the special haying and grazing program.

The winter wheat harvest of 1.2 billion bushels was the smallest since 1972 because of a short crop in the soft wheat states and the acreage reduction in the hard wheat crop.

Season average wheat prices rose from $2.31 per bushel in 1977 and are projected to average between $2.80 and $3.00 a bushel this year. The mid-month November wheat price was $3.05 per bushel, compared to $2.46 per bushel a year ago.

Despite a large supply of old-crop stocks, wheat prices held firm through harvest, and continue to run 60-70 cents per bushel higher than the year before. If conditions over the next several months result in a tighter than expected supply-demand situation, wheat prices could approach the $3.29 per bushel release level of the reserve. The weighted average farm price for the first five months of the marketing year, $2.88 per bushel, is below the $3.40 target price and eligible growers are receiving deficiency payments of around $620 million on 1978 production.

The wheat reserve also designed to eliminate extreme price fluctuations now totals 407 million bushels.

Feed Grain Programs Compared - Feed grain producers will be encouraged to remove from production an acreage equal to 20 percent of the acres that they plant for harvest in 1979, a percentage identical to the 1978 program.

Basically the same as in 1978, the 1979 program offers corn and sorghum producers a 10 percent set-aside and a 10 percent diversion program. There is a 20 percent set-aside program for barley, instead of a combination set-aside diversion program.

The acreage a producer participating in the diversion program can plant to a feed grain in 1979 is not restricted to the prior year's acreage, as was the case in 1978. Under the previous program, the diversion payment was related to the acreage a producer planted for harvest. In 1979, the diversion payment will be related to the acreage a producer diverts from production which must equal 10 percent of the acreage planted to the crop for harvest.

Feed grain producers will again be eligible for target price payments on their entire planted acreage by restricting plantings from 1978 by 10 percent for corn and grain sorghum and 20 percent for barley. The incentive to participate in the 1979 feed grain program totals $2.30 a bushel for corn and $2.40 a bushel for sorghum and barley. The corn target price will be $2.20, instead of $2.10 a bushel; $2.30 per bushel for sorghum and $2.40 a bushel for barley.

The loan rates will be identical to those in effect for the 1978 crops of feed grains. They are: $2.00 a bushel for corn, $1.90 for sorghum, $1.69 for barley, $1.03 for oats, and $1.70 a bushel for rye. No set-aside or diversion program is offered for oat producers in 1979.

4-H IN MRS. BRYAN'S CLASS

On November 14, 1978, Mrs. Bryan's 4-H Club met. Our president, Timmy Austin, opened the meeting and then we had our pledges to the American Flag and 4-H Pledge. The pledges were led by Tehphna Richardson and Jeff Beane. Then the recreation leaders, Donna Dickerson, Kandy Driskill, and Michelle Ford, led the games "Black Magic" and "Artist in the Dark." Then the minutes were read.

Mrs. Walton showed us how we could make some of our Christmas presents this year. They were very helpful ideas.

Timmy Austin adjourned the meeting.

Reporter: Kelly Paulette

The Yule Log

The Persians gave the Yule log its name. It was the custom in Persia to cut down a tree and cut a section from its trunk. The section was round, and marked off into four segments representing the four seasons of the year.

This "calendar" was turned like a wheel and was called a Yole. The log from which it was cut was known as the Yole log.

With every season, the wheel was turned and a great fire kindled. The Yole log was placed in this fire, as the people prayed for good fortune during the coming season.

At this joyous Christmas season, we wish you the gift of peace of mind and heart!

Lloyd, Sarah and Bill Vaughan

GREETINGS

May the glow of Christmas shine on you and your loved ones.

Laugenia P. Shaw

Merry Christmas

Santa declares this will be your merriest Christmas ever! Thanks for your friendship.

Calvin & Earle Atkinson

Noel

Wishing you all of the blessings of the Holiday Season to you and your loved ones. We hope that you will always find Peace and Contentment, guided by that everlasting light that leads the shepherds in the fields to the manger. Have a happy and holy Christmas season.

Farmers National Bank

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MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
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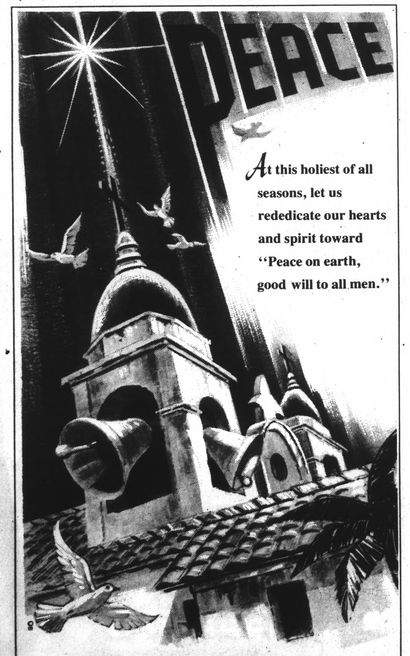
GOOD WISHES

To all our customers, sincerest wishes for a Christmas that hums with complete joy and happiness. And for the pleasure of having served you, our thanks!

WEST END EXXON

JAMES L. BAILESS

HIGHWAY 24 — APPOMATTOX, VA.



At this holiest of all seasons, let us rededicate our hearts and spirit toward "Peace on earth, good will to all men."

APPOMATTOX FARM SUPPLY

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18 E. HARRELL ST. APPOMATTOX, VA.

"The South 40"
by JAMES A. SMITH
EXTENSION AGENT

Soybean prices have been good even at harvest time this year. A recent trade mission returning from the far East say that the soybean is referred to as "American Gold."

Looks like everyone with an interest in soybeans is trying to bring out a new variety. This may well be progress but it puts added stress on the Virginia Tech research program to provide objective evaluations on the many varieties.

The two new soybean variety releases for 1979 are Bay and Ware.

Bay is an excellent double crop bean and is equal to Essex when grown full season. It matures two days later than Essex and is seven inches taller. Compared to Essex the seedsize is larger, seed quality scores are similar, oil content is higher, protein is 2 percent lower, but is slightly more susceptible to lodging.

Bay is currently the best choice for double cropping in Virginia. It averaged 40.7 bu. per acre at 32 locations from 1975-1977.

The Ware variety is adapted to the Northern area of the state. It is susceptible to downy mildew and its beans are close to the ground. Most growers is this area of the state will probably select Essex or Bay as the preferred variety. In tests from 1972-1976 Ware averaged 40.6 bushels.

* * *

While we are on soybeans, remember the Annual Virginia Soybean Conference is at Williamsburg February 8 - 9. This is an excellent program.

* * *

Congratulations to W. E. Bondurant, Jr. who was elected to a two-year term as Director Lynchburg Feeder Cattle Association.

In 1978 Lynchburg sold 1634 fewer head than a year earlier, while Virginia sold 39,000 less head through the organized sales.

Producers need to be aware that it is increasingly difficult to move 300 to 400 pound steers and heifers. We need to be selling heavier weights for a number of reasons.

Two rules that will be enforced more intensively another year are: yearlings must have been held for **at least 60 days** by the consignor and calves **must** have been raised on the farm that consigns them.

Producers need to be sure that vaccinations were **properly** carried out as required. There's a good possibility that vaccination for IBR will be a requirement next year. The Virginia Cattlemen's Association will probably make recommendations on this at the February 1 - 3 Annual Meeting.

Consignors to the Lynchburg sale have been receiving the **Virginia Cattleman** and the **Livestock Breeders Journal.** Like everything, costs are going up and adjustments will have to be made. **The Virginia Cattleman** may have a change in format and frequency. Currently the Virginia Cattle Association is paying $7000 for its members to get **The Livestock Breeders Journal.** The cost is doubling. The current thinking is that subscriptions to the Journal may have to be dropped.

* * *

The quarterly forage report for July, August and September indicates that in 1977 there were 18 samples tested in this three-month period, but only 5.6 percent tested very good to excellent. For 1978 there were 14 samples, but 35.7 percent tested very good to excellent. This is the right direction, but still not enough in the top quality.

Saladin Hybrid Cucumber is a 1979 All-American Bronze Medal winner. Saladin cucumber was developed in Europe. It's designed primarily for salad as well as for pickling.

Saladin has a non-bitter skin gene in its inheritance. You can cross-cut these cucumbers, skin and all, for salads. The bright green skin is so tender that you will find yourself eating your Saladin Cucumbers whole. Seeds are small and develop slowly so that the fruits can be eaten fresh or pickled before they begin to turn yellow with age and develop hollow centers.

Saladin forms medium-short picking type fruits and should be harvested when they are 4 to 5 inches in length for baby sweets, dill, sour or bread and butter pickles. The fruits brine well and are good sized for packing in quart jars. A moderate amount of wrinkling may occur in small sizes when pickling, but this does not affect the eating quality. Spines are white and inconspicuous. Fruits taper slightly at both ends.

You may see a small percentage of pollinator seeds in packets of Saladin. The hybrid plants of Saladin bear mostly female blossoms and the pollinator variety insures a good set of fruit providing insects and wind to a good job of distributing pollen. Don't thin out cucumbers plants that look different from others. These are the plants of the pollinator variety.

Fruits of Saladin are ready for harvest in about 55 days. Vines are vigorous and spreading and provide good foliage to minimize sun scald.

There is multiple disease resistance bred into Saladin. It resists scab and cucumber mosaic viruses and is tolerant to both powdery mildew and bacterial wilt.

VIRGINIA FIBRE REPORTS WEEKLY WOOD PURCHASES

Listed below is the total dollar volume of wood purchased by Virginia Fibre Corporation of Riverville for the week ending December 12, 1978. Purchases are listed by counties.

Albemarle	10,911.76
Amelia	2,704.77
Amherst	5,797.38
Appomattox	14,029.58
Augusta	1,706.89
Bedford County	1,753.65
Buckingham	48,635.49
Campbell	19,781.91
Charlotte	4,809.12
Cumberland	5,302.79
Fluvanna	7,691.25
Goochland	3,130.54
Halifax	285.60
Louisa	309.52
Nelson	17,432.59
Pittsylvania	3,016.80
Powhatan	347.34
Prince Edward	9,383.76
Prince William	1,439.28
Rockbridge	997.93
Total	**159,457.95**

We feel this information will be of interest to our readers in Appomattox County as well as adjoining counties.

O, Holy Night

A miraculous star shone in the heavens that Holy Night the Savior was born. For nearly two thousand years that bright spirit has flourished as we rejoice each Christmas season, and reaffirm our faith in His Holy Birth. May His true spirit abide with you through the Holy Season and for all time.

Virginia Fibre Corporation

ACHS Art Club Meetings

The October fourth Art Club meeting was called to order by president Donna Blazer. The secretary, Angie Richardson, read the minutes and called the roll. Then David Harvey gave the treasurer's report. Old business was discussed, the home coming float was a great pride for the Art Club. We received second place, and would like to thank everyone who helped with it.

Then new business was discussed. And we broke up into committies and discussed our projects. Then the meeting was adjourned.

* * *

The November Art Club meeting was called to order by president Donna Blazer, secretary, Angie Richardson, called the roll and read the minutes. Then we went over old business and had a treasurer's report was read by David Harvey. Then we had our new business and then broke up into our committes and discussed our projects. Then we said that all the art club dues were due before today (Nov. 24) The meeting was adjourned.

The December meeting was called to order by President Donna Blazer, secretary, Angie Richardson, read the minutes & called the roll. Treasurer, David Harvey, gave the treasurer's report which is a total of $44.10. Then we had our old business. Then we had our new business which is that the S.C.A. is going to put a Christmas tree up and wants all clubs to help and make Christmas tree ornaments to put on the tree. Then Ford was head of the ornaments. She described different things to us that we could do. Then we broke up into our committees and worked on some of them. Then the meeting was adjourned.

Debbie Baldwin, Reporter

SCHOOL CONCERT RESCHEDULED

The Christmas Concert, originally scheduled for December 14th, has been rescheduled and will be held tonight, Thursday, December 21st, at the Appomattox County High School auditorium.

Participating in the concert will be the Appomattox Middle School Chorus, the Appomattox County High School Chorus and the Appomattox County High School Chorus and Madrigal.

There is no admission fee and the public is invited to attend.

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Unending good wishes to you and yours this Christmas.

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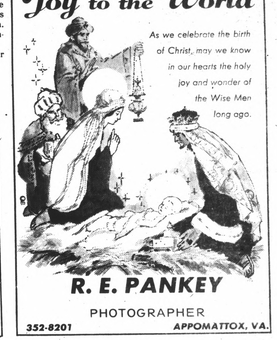
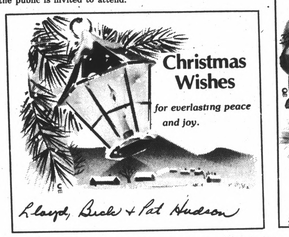


Joy to the World

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may we know in our hearts the holy joy and wonder of the Wise Men long ago.

R. E. PANKEY
PHOTOGRAPHER
352-8201 APPOMATTOX, VA.



Christmas Wishes

for everlasting peace and joy.

Lloyd, Buck & Pat Hudson

Discover BEN FRANKLIN We bring variety to life!

Stocking Stuffers

STORE HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 9 AM to 10 PM
Sun., Christmas Eve 10 AM to 6 PM

PLAY MONEY — A million bucks! Genuine fake money! 49¢ ea.
SPACE KALEIDOSCOPE — See hundreds of creatures! Rocket ship shaped 1.29 each
SLINKY JR. — The walking spring! Loads of fun! 59¢ ea.
FOAM BALL — Safe for indoors 6-in. diameter 69¢ ea.
FOAM FLYERS — 2 foam planes With launching gun 89¢ ea.
BUBBLE LIQUID — 8-oz. bottle With wand, too! 25¢ ea.
TOOTSIE TOYS — Choice of models Die-cast metal 69¢ ea.
SILLY PUTTY — Loads of fun! In plastic egg 99¢ ea.
FIRE ENGINE — Safe, sturdy plastic Super detailing! 79¢ ea.
SLINKY PULL TOY — Choice of styles Spring-back action 1.49 each
JAX 'N BALLS — 16 metal jacks 2 bouncy balls 49¢ ea.
PEEWEE SPORT BALLS — Choice of styles 4 to 6-in. size 79¢ each
PUSH PUPPETS — Flintstone characters Colorful plastic 99¢ ea.
FLASH CARDS — Makes learning fun Wide selection 69¢ ea.
Plastic TRUCKS, CARS — Wide selection Unbreakable plastic 59¢ ea.
DISNEY - ROLLIES — Lots of fun! Choice of models 99¢ ea.
TOOTSIE TOY CARS — Just 3-inches long! Many to choose 49¢ ea.
DONNA DOLL — 17½-in. fashion doll With twisting waist! 99¢ ea.
MILITARY PLAY SETS — Soldiers and vehicles Durable plastic 1.29 set
Children's CARD GAMES — Kids love these! 6 different games! 49¢ ea.
CRAYOLA - CRAYONS — non-toxic crayons 24 different colors 85¢ ea.

COLD 'N CLAMMY PLAY SLIME — Yuk! It's gruesomely stretchy and squishy and kids love it! In its own garbage can! Choice 1.49 each

POCKET PETS — Wind 'em up and watch 'em waddle across the floor! Durable plastic. Choice 1.29 each

CANDY CIGARETTES — Colorful cartons of sweet tasting candy cigarettes. Only 1.19 each

Bubble Yum BUBBLE GUM — Yummy, chewy, juicy bubble gum, 19 pieces per box. 5-OZ. BOX 59¢ ea.

CHEW CHEW TRAIN BUBBLE GUM — Six packages of Fruit Stripe gum, 7 sticks per pkg. 42 Sticks! 59¢ ea.

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